

(Washington, DC)— Congresswoman Gwen Moore (D-Wisc.) today announced that four Milwaukee health centers will receive investments totaling more than \$3.5 million in Recovery Act Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Grants. These funds will go to the 16th Street Community Health Center, Health Care for the Homeless of Milwaukee, Milwaukee Health Services, and Westside Healthcare Association.

The investments will support construction, repairs, renovation, new equipment and the expansion of health information technology (HIT) systems. Rep. Moore helped pass the Economic Recovery Act in February to create jobs, bolster the country's infrastructure and improve the health of the economy and communities across the country.

"These Recovery Act funds will support health care for Milwaukee's most vulnerable and underserved populations," Rep. Moore said. "With expanded and enhanced facilities, these four centers will continue providing affordable, quality health care to those neighbors in our community who would otherwise go without. As the ranks of the uninsured grow, so too does the importance of ensuring that community facilities are able to see the patients who require care.

"As the debate surrounding comprehensive health care reform takes shape, I have consistently emphasized that primary and preventative care are critical to improving health outcomes and lowering the cost of caring for an individual over his or her lifetime. Health centers provide these important services, like childhood immunizations, care for newborn babies and their mothers, obstetrical care, and many other basic treatments."

"The announcement today will make a huge difference not only for our patients, but for the entire community," said Lee Carroll, Executive Director of Health Care for the Homeless of Milwaukee. "When we acquired this building in the early '90s, it had been vacant for a while and the wear and tear showed. For more than 15 years, we have used clear plastic tape to cover bullet holes that riddled our windows. It's about time we replaced the old windows with ones that will actually keep the cold weather out.

"Most importantly, this investment will help us finally get an elevator for our three-story facility, making things easier on our staff and patients. It will pay for a new roof, heating and air conditioning, and damaged ceiling tiles. These funds will make needed improvements to our

facility so that it appears warm, friendly and inviting, just like the care we provide.”

“We are overjoyed to be receiving these funds,” said CC Henderson, President and CEO of Milwaukee Health Services. “We are currently in the planning stages of implementing an electronic health records system, and these funds will augment that effort. The investment will also be utilized to offset the cost of the \$5.9 million Martin Luther King Heritage Health Center expansion.

“We would like to thank Congresswoman Moore for her work on the Recovery Act legislation, which made these funds possible.”

At the 16th Street Community Health Center, funds will go toward remodeling at the Parkway site to expand space for Behavioral Health Services, Social Services, Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy. The funds will also pay for three new full-time employees, who are expected to be able to see 2,270 new patients each. Other facility improvements will include major heating and air conditioning upgrades and roof repair at all three sites.

“These dollars will be put to good use, helping us leverage existing space so that we can serve more patients,” said President and CEO John Bartkowski.

“We are thrilled that this grant will give us the opportunity to improve the quality of care for our patients at Westside,” said Alicia Modjeska, Chief Operating Officer at Westside Healthcare Association. “These funds enable us to implement an electronic medical record for each patient, which will increase safety and improve overall efficiency. It will also help us save money through enhanced billing and data tracking capabilities. We are very excited.”

These funds for health centers follow other Recovery Act grant investments to community health center sites. On March 27, these four Milwaukee centers received a total of \$1,374,793 in Increased Demand for Services grants. These funds will allow existing community health centers to see additional patients, including the uninsured, by adding new providers, expanding services or adding new providers.

The funds for the Milwaukee-area centers will be distributed as follows:

- \$1,304,515 – Milwaukee Health Services
- \$1,199,130 -- 16th Street Community Health Center, Inc.
- \$638,885 – Healthcare for the Homeless of Milwaukee
- \$442,535 – Westside Healthcare Association

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